

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3-8 are now present in this application.

The specification and claims 1 and 3 have been amended and claim 2 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Reconsideration of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

The Examiner has noted the election of species requirement in which species 2 of Figure 7 has been elected. As will be set forth below, a generic claim should now be allowable. As such, the election of species requirement should be withdrawn.

Claims 1 and 6-8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Chen, U.S. Patent 5,871,408. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 4 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Chen in view of Lee, U.S. Patent 6,319,149. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicant gratefully acknowledges that the Examiner considers the subject matter of claims 2-3 and 5 to contain allowable subject matter. Because limitations from claim 2 have now been incorporated in claim 1, this claim should be in condition for allowance. Claim 2 is noted as setting forth a stepped portion further inward from a first stepped portion in paragraph 7 of the September 28, 2004 Office Action. The groove is located between the first

stepped portion and the second stepped portion as now recited in independent claim 1. As such, the second stepped portion would be further inward from the first stepped portion.

Withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and §103 rejections are respectfully requested. Favorable reconsideration and an early Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

Because the British document is being included merely to show the state of the prior art and has not been utilized to rejection the claims, no further comments concerning this document are considered necessary at this time.

CONCLUSION

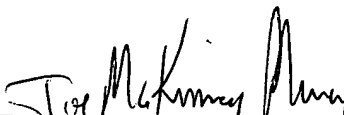
Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Joe McKinney Muncy (Reg. No. 32,334) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

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Reply filed: December 28, 2004
Art Unit 3711

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If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

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By 
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3624-0120P

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